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Congress of the United States

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Committee on Education
and the Workforce

Permanent Select Committee
on Intelligence
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Intelligence Policy

Co-Chair
Children's Environmental Health Caucus
Member
Congressional Arts Caucus
Internet Caucus
Law Enforcement Caucus
Historic Preservation Caucus

Mr. David Laney
Chairman
Amtrak Board of Directors
60 Massachusetts Ave., NE
Washington, DC 20002

Mr. David Gunn
President & CEO
Amtrak
60 Massachusetts Ave., NE
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Chairman Laney and President Gunn

I was surprised and severely disappointed to read in today's *New York Times* that the Amtrak Board of Directors has begun the process of dramatically restructuring Amtrak without consulting the State of New Jersey or informing Congress of this action. I request that the Amtrak Board of Directors provide me and my colleagues in the New Jersey delegation with a briefing on this proposal as soon as possible.

According to the United Rail Passenger Alliance, the Amtrak Board of Directors voted without public notice on September 22, 2005, to begin an exploration process of creating a separate subsidiary of Amtrak that would own and operate the infrastructure and real estate in the Northeast Corridor. This would be a wholly owned and controlled subsidiary of Amtrak, with its own president and management structure. Its president would report directly to the Amtrak Board of Directors.

Should this proposal continue to move forward, it could have a dramatic impact on rail travel in the Northeast Corridor. New Jersey Transit and other state transit systems rely on this corridor, and commuters across the region could suffer if this privatization proposal is implemented. The State of New Jersey and Members of Congress deserve adequate information and analysis of proposed changes to our national passenger rail service to ensure that this important service is not interrupted.

I appreciate your immediate consideration of my request and I look forward to meeting with you to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress